Latrobe Valley Naturalist

November - December 2015 Issue No. 581



In April 2015, a Large Brown Tree Frog *Litoria littlejohni* was recorded in Victoria for the first time in twenty years near Goongerah in far East Gippsland (Photo: Rohan Bilney).

Office bearers

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Treasurer: David Mules
Publicity Officer: Alix Williams
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General meetings

Held at 7:30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at the Newborough Uniting Church, Old Sale Road Newborough VIC 3825

Upcoming events

November general meeting: Friday 27 November
Victorian Alps Wild Horse Management Plan – Duncan Malcolm
Excursion: Saturday 28 November – Nangara Reserve Jindivick. Meet 10am at Nangara Reserve. From Jindivick township, continue west on Jacksons Tk (main road), Nangara Rd is 2.5km on the right and the reserve is 700m further on the left.
Bird Count Challenge: Friday 4 – Sunday 6 December
Christmas Party: Saturday 12 December at Ken Harris' place, Churchill
Club Summer Camp: Mt Baw Baw 5-8 February 2016
Botany Group: Saturday 13 February – Looking at Mt Baw Baw plants

Birds of Venus Bay 28.2.15

It was my first visit to Venus Bay for many years and I was pleasantly surprised by the extent of the natural bush remaining. Anderson Inlet is the estuary of the Tarwin River and sits between Venus Bay to the south and the farmland and foothills to the north. There are large sand dunes along the southern shore which terminate at Point Smythe, preventing the Tarwin River from flowing directly into the sea, thus forming the Inlet.

It is always a good idea to get some local knowledge before and during an excursion to a new area and today we were very fortunate to be joined by the Friends of Venus Bay. The Friends group are a very active group with extensive local knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the area.

The day started at our meeting place at the jetty in the second settlement where we were fortunate to receive a comprehensive talk on the historical aspects of the area. The bird life around the car park proved to be very good with the sighting of an Intermediate Egret as soon as I arrived and a large flock of at least 30 Royal Spoonbills in a paddock. The egret is a common bird in the north of Australia but is dispersive and a scarce visitor to Victoria. The Royal Spoonbills are sedentary birds and often feed at night, and can be seen roosting in groups near water. This group proved to be quite a large group. There was also a small flock of four Blue-winged Parrots next to the car park. Venus Bay is one of the sites where Orange-bellied Parrots are surveyed during the winter but so far none have been sighted.

The morning walk was along the southern shore of the Inlet from Doyle's Road westward to the road termination before Point Smythe. There is also a pleasant freshwater pool here where we spent much of the afternoon watching birds.

The disappointment of the day was there were no wader sightings. In the past, one would expect to see both species of oystercatchers and our guides told us the Red-necked Stints were regular summer visitors along the shoreline. The reason for the lack of waders was partly due to the introduction of *Spartina anglica* which was introduced from South Africa to stabilise the dunes. It has now become an invasive weed that colonises mudflats and beaches and outcompetes native plants, in the process removing suitable habitat for wading birds. Reports are conflicting but waders such as Curlews, Curlew Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-capped Plovers are present on the north shore of the inlet, along with the occasional vagrant such as a Terek Sandpiper that was seen recently.

The other factor is the overharvesting of Pipis *Donax deltoides,* which would be one of the foods for oystercatchers. However there were many crabs present that also form part of the oystercatchers' diet and we were fortunate to have Margaret Rowe with us to help identify some of them. The one in the picture is *Heleocius cordiformis* which has very long eyestalks and is the most abundant crab in muddy estuaries. It is sometimes called the Semaphore Crab because the adult males often stand near their burrows and signal with their claws.



Semaphore Crab at Venus Bay (Photo: David Stickney)

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the sighting of a new bird for many of the group. We were puzzled by a bird that had reasonably heavy streaks on the underparts that was bigger than the Brown Thornbills, but smaller than a female Rufous Whistler, both of which were in the area. It wasn't until it turned around and flew off, revealing its bold rufous rump, that I realised it was a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. These are shy birds that usually stay under cover so we were lucky to see it sitting on top of a native bush.

The afternoon finished at the home of Lorraine and Will Norden, whom we thanked for being our hosts and guides, before heading home after a very enjoyable day.

Bird list

Little Pied Cormorant
Pacific Gull
Australian Pelican
Royal Spoonbill
Spotted Turtle-dove
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren
Noisy Miner
Rufous Whistler
Australian Magpie
Eastern Yellow Robin
Common Myna
Little Black Cormorant
Grey Teal
White-faced Heron
Australian White Ibis
Blue-winged Parrot
Crimson Rosella
Laughing Kookaburra
Brown Thornbill
Red Wattlebird
Grey Shrike-thrush
Little Raven
Silvereye
European Goldfinch
Silver Gull
Black Swan
Intermediate Egret
Swamp Harrier
Galah
Eastern Rosella
Superb Fairy-wren
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Little Wattlebird
Grey Butcherbird
Grey Fantail
Common Starling
House Sparrow

Latrobe River Meander Restoration

The guest speaker at our March meeting was Matt Bowler, who leads the project delivery team for the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. He spoke about a recent project involving restoration of natural flows through 1.2 km of meanders and billabongs along the Latrobe River between Rosedale and Sale. The objective of the project was to reduce channel erosion, improve habitat quality and reduce sediment flowing into the Gippsland Lakes.

The Latrobe River may be the most straightened river in Australia, due to the efforts of the now defunct Latrobe River Improvement Trust. Central Victoria used to be cut off from the Gippsland Lakes by the dense forests and steep terrain of the Strzeleckis. The flat lands of the Latrobe Valley formed impassable swamps in winter and after rain. Travel to East Gippsland was largely by ship in these early days of settlement. The Strzeleckis were slowly cleared and the swamps emptied of water through the digging of deep drains, before road and rail penetrated and towns developed.

Despite the drains in the eastern end of the catchment, downstream of Yarragon, there were frequent complaints of flooding following heavy rains. The authorities sought to reduce this flooding using the conventional treatment of the time; they sped up the run-off by cutting through between the river's many meanders, straightening, shortening and deepening the river. Simultanously, large fallen trees that slowed the water flow were also removed.

Time proved these tactics to be unsound in several respects. The steeper fall of the water over the shorter, straightened sections accelerated the flow, adding to its erosive power. The

reduced water retention in the upper catchment sent higher peak floodwater more quickly down to the lower river and Sale, adding to serious and costly flooding there. Environmental values of the river were damaged also, with the removal of woody debris essential for the existence of aquatic invertebrates and fish.

Recent planning has sought to reverse the process. Working with landholders and local councils to block off the straight-cuts and redirect river flow back around the meanders has re-established their role as the main channel under normal flow conditions, thereby reducing the gradient and water speed, and lowering and spreading out flood peaks. In most cases this has added extra length to the river, providing more habitat for aquatic wildlife.

The Gippsland Lakes Environment Fund financed the project, and stream sections chosen for restoration were prioritised based on the quality of the vegetation, feasibility of managing stream length and sediment loads, and cooperation of the stakeholders. Some sections, when straightened, had inadvertently created islands of remnant bushland (such as ancient river red gums or dense riparian forest understorey) that were inaccessible to cattle or people for a hundred years, and now exist as 'time capsules' representing the natural vegetation occurring there in the past. Restoration involved excavating sediment to redirect flow, depositing rocks to create 'rock chutes' and weir pools, and removing weeds such as willows and Reed Canary Grass, while retaining *Melaleuca ericifolia* stumps which readily produce shoots when disturbed and assist in stabilising the soil.

At the conclusion of his talk, Matt recommended to us a relatively new walking track at Herb Guyatt Sanctuary in Sale, easily accessible and taking around 45 mins to complete, that encompasses a remnant billabong, restored wetland area and enormous specimens of *Callistemon sieberi*. Until about five years ago, this area of public land was used by locals to run horses and was highly infested with weeds such as pittosporum, blackberries, willows and bridal creeper. Removal of the weeds, and revegetation using many plants grown locally by John Topp, has greatly enhanced the natural value of this site named after a prominent naturalist, photographer and hunter from the Sale area.

John Poppins and Tamara Leitch

Eucalypt Workshop at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne 18.04.2015

Recently, I attended a workshop on Eucalypts at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne organised by the Friends group there. It was very worthwhile and well attended. Speakers for the day were Dean Nicolle, John Thomson and Bruce Schroder, followed by a short walk through the gardens.

Dr Dean Nicolle (www.dn.com.au), known from his private Currency Creek Arboretum and being the author of several publications on Eucalypts and co-author of even more, does work on Eucalypt research and consultancy. He has travelled extensively throughout Australia, and is a very engaging speaker too.

Bruce Schroder brought to the audience a wealth of practical experience about trees for urban purposes and a lifetime of landscape design, with many years spent in council parks and gardens management at Whittlesea. "I love trees, just not in front of my house" is a commonly voiced concern from residents, as a house in a 'leafy' suburb can attract up to a $30,000 premium,

not to mention the aesthetics and environmental properties. While he outlined the requirements for the ideal urban tree, all I could think of were high-voltage power pylons, a bit of paint and Xmas lighting and…voila! But not for Mr. Schroder. See his suggestions a bit further on.
His main concern was the nursery industry delivering unreliable stock. With Eucalypts it is already very hard to find and grow the required species. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that you are looking at different subspecies. From where or what tree is the seed collected? Which species are growing nearby that might cross-pollinate? Or for grafted varieties, what rootstock was used? To me it seems a lot of research has been done, but this knowledge does not seem to be generally available.

John Thomson spoke on the use of Eucalypts in everyday life. He was only given 20 minutes. It was amazing on how many aspects he managed to touch – see stamps or have a close look at bank notes; building ornamentations, lead-lighting, stained or hot glass decoration. Did he mention music? Recently my attention was drawn to a wood carving panel at the Warragul Arts Centre. Next time, spend some time in the back of the foyer, it's worth it! Like so many good things in life, it is a bit hidden in the back, easily missed. Or even closer to home, what could Jim Blucher do with a bit of timber? An enormous variety of timbers and oils. Bosisto's, an Australian icon. And then there is literature. In this context I have to mention a book recently written by John Wrigley and Murray Fagg, 'Eucalypts, a celebration'. Engaging reading! In Australian landscape painting or photography, Eucalypts are often prominent or tell a story. And of course, they are used in flower arrangements.

Briefly on classification, 'Eucalypts' is the common name for the genera:

* *Eucalyptus* (about 800 spp)
 - subgen. *Monocalyptus*
 - *Symphyomyrtus* (500 - 600)
 - *Eudesmia*
* *Corymbia* (about 100 spp)
 - subgen. *Corymbia*
 - *Blakella*
* *Angophora* (about 12 spp)



Bark of the Rainbow Gum *Eucalyptus deglupta* (terragalleria.com)

Eucalyptus

Contrary to common belief, hybrids are not that common in the wild. Usually they form single plants, not a stand. Seeds are viable but produce a variety of plants with characteristics from both parents, leaning more to one or the other. Hybrids are not to be confused with local strains (disjunct populations). Examples in our area are *E. baxteri* or *E. camaldulensis* x *E. tereticornis*. These differences are caused by environmental conditions (e.g. wind exposure), genetic diversity or a combination of both.
Eucalyptus obliqua was the first species to be named, in 1777, and thus is the type species for the genus *Eucalyptus*. But did you know where the name *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (our iconic River Red Gum) finds its origin? From a plant growing in a garden in Italy!! Dry scientific plant classification really coming to life. Remember our LVFNC excursion to the herbarium last year? Only a few species naturally occur outside Australia to the north. As far north as The Philippines grows *E. deglupta* (Rainbow Gum) with its spectacular rainbow-coloured bark. I have been fortunate indeed to see it grow in the Singapore botanical garden. A workmate of mine told me the other day with great confidence that Eucalypts were growing naturally in Chile as well. I did not contradict him! What story does this tell?

Eudesmia

Formerly included in genus *Eucalyptus*, it includes bout 15 - 18 species, mainly in northwestern Australia. It has filaments in four groups (quadrants). Very attractive flowering trees, even in bud, but I doubt they would do well in our area.



Mathison Park arboretum in Churchill (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

Corymbia

Occurs mainly in northern, more tropical Australia, but some species are very widely planted for their showy appearance. Flowers generally appear in panicles above the leaves as in, for example, *E. ficifolia*.

Angophora

Buds are not covered by an operculum but by individual petals, and the leaves are generally opposite. Very widely planted is Smooth-barked Angophora *A. costata*, known under a dozen or so other local common names. A very attractive tree indeed, with bark colour changing seasonally.



Dr Dean Nicolle, through his photos, showed an enormous variety within Eucalypts. A lot of species would be suitable and of great beauty, even in a small garden. In his opinion, there are particular species that deserve a lot more attention (see Appendix I). Admittedly, it may be hard to find a supplier! A lot of the species have proven to be very resilient and adaptable to a wide range of soils and environments. Personally I have reservations about the silver-leaved species doing well in Gippsland, though I have to admit, I have no experience with them. A fair few of these species are growing at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne.

Mr Bruce Schroder, with his background in urban landscaping, came up with more species worth considering (Appendix II). He noted that it is important to find the right species for the given location; under suitable conditions, some can grow into formidable, tall trees. And then it can be still a challenge to get the proper species/subspecies/cultivar delivered. Labels on trees tend to swap around too!

Unfortunately I am not able to comment on most of the above mentioned trees. I do think it merely shows the enormous variety available. Mathison Park in Churchill presents the opportunity to see a fair collection of the local Eucalypts in the one location. A decent collection of Australia-wide Eucalypts presents itself at the Peter Francis Points Arboretum in Coleraine. At both locations, the correct labelling presents a challenge. And of course there are the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne. I have taken the opportunity to spread the message and it'll make a start. Give them a go!

Jack Weerts

Rediscovery of the Large Brown Tree Frog in Victoria

During April 2015, my co-workers and I at Wildlife Unlimited were conducting spotlight surveys for gliders in East Gippsland, on behalf of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. During a survey near Goongerah, my colleague Rena Gaborov, heard the call of a Large Brown Tree Frog *Litoria littlejohni* coming from a roadside culvert. She did not have a recording device or time to find the frog on that occasion, but returned several days later to find it in the same location. An ex-colleague, Rohan Bilney, travelled down from Eden to photograph it. The photo and recording confirmed the sighting and caused great excitement in the ecological community because the species had not been seen in the state for twenty years, despite several targeted surveys within its known distribution. It was thought that the collective pressures of logging, bushfire and chytrid fungus may have wiped them out, but suddenly there was hope. While the weather was still suitable, Rena spent much of her spare time searching potential habitat for more calling frogs. She managed to find one more site, containing three individuals (one male, two females) at a puddle by the road near Mount Jersey. With so little known about the species, it was an opportunity to gather some information and improve techniques for surveying them. Within a few days, DELWP Biodiversity Officers set up sound recorders and call playback devices at the known sites and other potential sites nearby. The recorders were programmed to turn on at different times of night, and were set up at different distances from the known sites to see how far away a call could be heard. The officers also recorded weather conditions to determine if temperature or wind influenced the timing of the frogs' calling. Each individual was swabbed for DNA and chytrid fungus. Although the data has not been formally analysed yet, it was noted that the frogs responded to playback even at quite low temperatures (around 8°C) and the lone frog responded well to a recording of his own call, but the male at the puddle didn't respond to the lone frog's call. The chytrid samples have not been examined yet, but DNA testing showed a stronger similarity to populations in southern NSW compared to northern NSW – which was not unexpected based on distance, but the ecology of these populations is quite different, leading to suggestions that they could be a separate species.



Litoria littlejohni is a robust tree frog with distinct orange colouration on its flanks (Photo: Rohan Bilney)

Tamara Leitch

Population genetics of the Strzelecki Koalas

The hypothesis that there is greater genetic diversity amongst the koalas of the Strzelecki Ranges as compared with those of other parts of Victoria has long been an important part of the argument for better conservation management in that part of South Gippsland. It was therefore of considerable interest for our club to have an update on the relevant recent research from Faye

Wedrowicz, a Monash University PhD student based at Federation University's Gippsland Campus. As Faye was in the end unable to join us on Friday 24th April, A/Prof Wendy Wright kindly agreed to give her presentation. Wendy, in her role of Associate Professor in ecology and conservation biology at FedUni, plays a lead role in the research group of which Faye is a member. Faye's current genetic analysis work uses DNA isolated from koala scats, a non-invasive and cost-effective approach.

Wendy began by outlining the history of koalas in Victoria with a view to indicating the importance of population diversity. Translocations to and between Westernport Bay islands date from over a century ago: the earliest translocations were to Phillip Island (PI) in the 1870s. The PI population did well but that island did not become overpopulated until after the introduction of 50 French Island (FI) koalas in 1923. In parallel with this, the Victorian mainland population declined dramatically over the early decades of the 20th century as a result of hunting (for the fur trade), habitat loss and bushfires. By the 1930s, that population was estimated at 500-1000 only.

As a consequence of the island populations growing over time to a size requiring management, it was possible to translocate large numbers to the mainland. Thus, from 1923, more than 7000 FI koalas were so relocated across Victoria, including Cape Otway, which received 49 animals as recently as 1981. This program also saw more than 3000 PI koalas translocated to the mainland. Interestingly and importantly, there were relatively few moved into the South Gippsland region.

The low genetic diversity of the translocated koalas is a potential problem as it brings an increased risk of future declines due to disease, with chlamydia and Koala retrovirus being issues here. The possible magnitude of this risk is suggested by the fate of the Tasmanian Devil which has suffered population declines of up to 80% since 1990 from facial tumour disease.

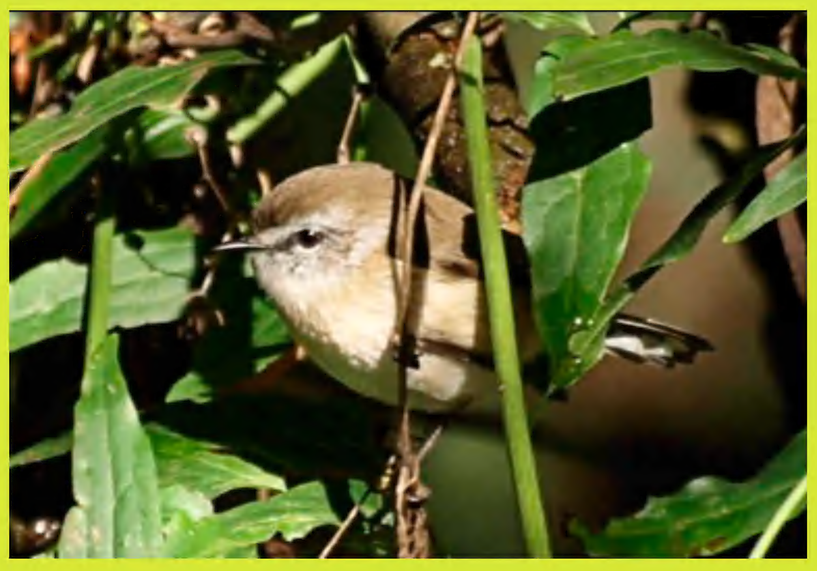
Wendy explained that Faye's project aims, firstly, to evaluate the genetic diversity of the South Gippsland population using scat DNA obtained from three study regions: Cape Otway (for FI stock), Raymond Island (for PI stock) and South Gippsland/Strzelecki Ranges. The implications of the findings for improved conservation management are then to be explored.

Wendy very capably conveyed for our general audience some of the results of Faye's DNA sequencing work to date. Part of this work has focused on a particular sequence of 640 base pairs extracted from mitochondrial DNA. (As I understand, the mitochondria are cell components that can be thought of as the "chemical powerhouses" of cells.) The idea is to look for differences in base pairs in this DNA segment, and most of the diversity has been found to occur in the South Gippsland/Strzelecki Ranges koalas, based on looking at data from around 20 animals from that region and similar numbers of each of the FI and RI provenances. Furthermore, the mitochondrial diversity is greater deep in the Strzeleckis than in the fringe areas. Faye has also investigated allelic richness, and found it to be significantly greater in the SG population than the FI and RI populations (which are similar in richness).

Wendy concluded her really well-presented talk by noting the importance of the overall finding of greater genetic diversity in the SG population. Faye aims to define the geographic boundaries of the genetically diverse population, which will require further sampling but ultimately facilitate good conservation practice.

Philip Rayment

Range expansion of Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki* in Victoria



Brown Gerygone (Photo: David Mules)

A recent paper published in the journal *Australian Field Ornithology* (Vol 32, Issue 1) by George Appleby and Martin O'Brien describes an apparent change in the historical distribution of the Brown Gerygone. Prior to the 1970s, Victorian records only occurred east of the Mitchell River in East Gippsland, with occasional 'vagrant' sightings occurring a short distance from known locations, and usually outside of the breeding season. The species is considered sedentary, with a strong preference for small, specialised wet forest habitats. Banded individuals have been recorded no further than 10km from their banding sites. However, since 1975, the number of records west of the Mitchell River has steadily been increasing. The birds have been reported from many different sites, in a broad range of habitats including riparian scrub, coastal heathland and predominantly exotic gardens. There have been isolated reports of breeding attempts, but the success of these is unknown. The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists recorded Brown Gerygones in Uralla Nature Reserve every summer from 2005-2009, including multiple breeding events, as well as at other times of year, and this has led to the species now being considered resident in West to South Gippsland. In the greater Melbourne area, however, they should still be regarded as vagrant. The reason for the range expansion is unknown, but the authors suggested climate change, alteration to habitat in East Gippsland or changes to western habitats as possible causes. To thank our Club for its contribution to their research, Martin mailed us a hard copy of the journal.

Landcare Award for LV Field Naturalists Club

On Friday April 24th 2015, several members of our Club attended the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network 'Green Carpet Showcase' event held to recognise the contribution of local Landcare individuals, groups and partnerships. The following statement accompanied our award:

"The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists have been nominated by Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network (LCLN) who they currently partner with to assist in the delivery of the Red Gum Plains Project. Ever since their formation in 1960, the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club (LVFNC) has endeavoured to protect and enjoy the flora and fauna of the Latrobe region. Still thriving today, the club's members are passionate about the natural environment and the Latrobe Valley. Many members are experts in a range of natural topics such as botany, birds, entomology and geology. The members are also passionate about sharing their knowledge of the local area with the local community. LCLN approached LVFNC to be a partner in the Red Gum Grassy Plains Woodland and Wildlife Project and carry out bird surveys on participating landholder properties. The LVFNC agreed to work with us on this project and they have been participating as part of the project working group, carrying out 10+ landholder surveys to date and also leading birdwatching community events in the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve which were very

popular and also included a mothing activity. Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network's Gippsland Red Gum Woodland and Wildlife Project aims to assist landholders to undertake works to protect and enhance remnant Gippsland Red Gum Plains Grassy Woodland and get to know the wildlife living on their property. Congratulations Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists!"

REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING 19.10.2015

Finance

Cash Management Trading Account $3,233.33, Term Deposit $13,608.67

Business Arising, Correspondence & General Business

Data projector: Jacqui has not been able to get a good picture with David Stickney's old computer. John Poppins will bring his data projector this month. Motion: that we purchase a new data projector, M. Cracknell/W. Savage. Will ask John Poppins' advice.

Supper: We have no volunteers for supper on the list, and are not getting many different people prepared to do it. Will point this out at next meeting and ask for more volunteers.

Radio batteries: David Stickney will bring radios to try new batteries Alix has bought.

"Aussie Backyard Birds" session with Ros Kidd at Old Mill Site, Boolarra 17 Oct to show novices how to birdwatch. Alix prepared a lot of material but no members of the public attended.

Landcare Red Gum Woodland and Wildlife Project: David M and Ken H conducted plant and bird surveys on two properties, one near Rosedale and the other on Flynn Rd past Loy Yang

Fitzgibbons Rd Reserve: Plant list compiled after August excursion sent on to Brett McGennisken who expressed appreciation

Purple Diuris orchid surveys: Six people attended Dawson survey on Oct 13th and 93 plants were counted – lowest number for a few years.

Summer Camp at Mt Baw Baw: 5-8 Feb 2016 (3 nights). Edski has been booked, and we need to pay 25% deposit which is $425. Has 10 rooms to sleep 36, with between 2 – 5 people per room. Cost $29/person/night for 19.5 people, but will charge $30 per night. Pillows and blankets supplied, but bring own linen. Fully equipped kitchen and spacious lounge area. Need to clean before leaving.

Alix is offering to open up church hall at 7pm on meeting nights to allow everything to be set up in advance so we can start on time. David Stickney will help.

Latrobe City have asked management committees of their reserves about Burgan and if it's a problem. Meeting will be Thursday 29 Oct 5pm at council offices, and Denis will attend. Denis also concerned about state of Eric Lubcke Reserve since the fires and would like club to get involved.

Morwell River wetlands frog sampling platform used by local schools was burnt in fires and has not been rebuilt. Club will write a letter to Hazelwood mine operators asking them to rebuild it. Denis will contact Max Sargeant to write a letter and communicate with us, then David can raise matter at ERC meeting.

LVFNC 2015 Bird Calendars

Pre-ordered calendars can be collected by members at the November general meeting, at a cost of $7 each. To order more copies, contact Alix on 5127 3393.

Guest speaker for November

Duncan Malcolm



Duncan Malcolm AM is the chairperson of the Victorian Alps Wild Horse Management Plan Roundtable Group.

The community-based group represents organisations covering brumby and horse interest groups, tourism, RSPCA, Mountain Cattlemen and Victorian National Parks Association. The group has formed a draft plan for Parks Victoria and the DELWP to collaboratively manage the population of about 10,000 wild horses in the Victorian Alps.

Duncan will talk about this process, the community consultation and the current status of the plan.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to The Naturalist in 2015. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all our members, their families and friends.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc. The Club subscription includes the "Naturalist".

Brief contributions and short articles on any aspect of natural history are invited from members of all clubs. Articles, including those covering Club speakers and excursions, would typically be around one A4 side in length, should not exceed 1,000 words, and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Photos should be sent as an attachment and be a maximum of 1 megabyte in size.

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this magazine rests with the author of the article.

Contributions should be addressed to:

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Deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the next issue January/February): 8 January 2016

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The Naturalist is generously printed by the office of Russell Northe MLA, Member for Morwell

APPENDIX I – Eucalypt species suitable for cultivation in various situations, as suggested by Dr Dean Nicolle

Group 1 - Mallee species: 4 - 6 m tall, will resprout from lignotuber
Eucalyptus websteriana (Webster's Mallee) – minni ritchi bark
also: *E. orbifolia* (Round-leaved Mallee)
Eucalyptus erythronema subsp. *erythronema* (Red-flowered Mallee)
Eucalyptus preissiana var. lobata (Bell-fruited Mallee)
Eucalyptus synandra (Jingymia Mallee) – very open habit, needs sun
also: *lacrimans* (Weeping Snow Gum)
sepulcralis (Blue Weeping Gum)
Eucalyptus pimpiniana (Pimpin Mallee) – max 2 metres tall

Group 2 - Fast growing for gardens: regenerates from seed
Eucalyptus utilis (syn. *Platypus* var. heterophylla) (Coastal Moort) – multiple trunks
Eucalyptus torquata (Coral Gum) – compare *pimpiniana* (small)
Eucalyptus woodwardii (Lemon-flowered Gum)
Eucalyptus ravida (Gimlet)
Eucalyptus campaspe (Silver-topped Gimlet)
Eucalyptus ficifolia (Red Flowering Gum)
Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. *megalocarpa* (a Yellow Gum) – tall tree
Eucalyptus petiolaris – produces flowers true to colour when grown from seed
(compare *leucoxylon*)

Group 3 – For parks and gardens
Eucalyptus erythrocorys – flowers to 7 cm diameter
Eucalyptus victrix (Smooth-barked Coolibah)
Angophora hispida (Dwarf Apple)
Corymbia torelliana (Cadaghi)
Corymbia aparrerinja (a Ghost Gum)

Group 4 – South Australian favourites
Eucalyptus macrocarpa (Mottlecah)
also: *rhodantha* (Rose Mallee)
Eucalyptus wyolensis (Wyda Mallee)
Eucalyptus sinuosa (Octopus Mallee) – far superior to *lehmannii* (Bushy Yate)
Eucalyptus caesia – several subspecies / cultivars worth considering
Eucalyptus kruseana (Book-leaf Mallee)
Eucalyptus angustissima (Broombush Mallee)

APPENDIX II – Mr Bruce Schroder's suggested Eucalypts for landscaping

Popular Eucalypts in south-eastern Victoria
Eucalyptus maculata (Spotted Gum)
Eucalyptus citriodora (Lemon-scented Gum)
Eucalyptus scoparia
Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'Rosea'
Eucalyptus Eucalyptus sideroxylon
Eucalyptus mannifera ssp *maculosa*
Eucalyptus ficifolia
Angophora costata

Smaller trees worth considering
Eucalyptus spathulata
Eucalyptus citriodora – several smaller-growing cultivars available
Eucalyptus ficifolia – several smaller-growing cultivars available, has to be grafted on *gummifera*, not on *ficifolia*
Eucalyptus maculata 'Lowanna'
Eucalyptus eximea
Eucalyptus lehmannii (Bushy Yate) inferior to *sinuosa* (Octopus Mallee)
Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'Euky Dwarf'
Eucalyptus pauciflora 'Little Snowman'
Eucalyptus ornans 'Dry White'
Eucalyptus olivacea
Eucalyptus mannifera 'Little Spotty'
Eucalyptus lansdowneana ssp. *albopurpurea*
Eucalyptus sideroxylon 'Bluey'